

### C. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions thereof.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:  
  
an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an ~~audio~~ audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium; and  
  
a processor in communication with the detector, wherein the processor is configured to:  
  
convert the received audible ring signal into a digitized received audio ring signal;  
  
compare the digitized received audio ring signal with a one or more predetermined digitized audio signal ring signals ~~generated by a device~~, wherein each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device and wherein the predetermined audio signal is pre-stored in one of a memory device and a storage device associated with the processor; and  
  
generate a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized received audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the audio signal detector includes a transducer.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including an amplifier in communication with the audio signal detector.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including an analog to digital signal converter in communication with the audio signal detector.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting an ~~audio~~ audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium;

means for converting the detected audible ring signal into a digitized detected audio ring signal;

means for pre-storing a predetermined one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals generated by a device, wherein each of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device;

means for comparing the digitized detected audio ring signal with the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals; and

means for generating a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising means for amplifying the detected audio signal.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

a transducer for remotely detecting an ~~audio~~ audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium and generating a detected audio ring signal corresponding thereto;

an amplifier connected to the transducer for amplifying the detected audio ring signal and for generating an amplified detected audio ring signal;

an analog to digital signal converter connected to the amplifier for converting the amplified detected audio ring signal to a digitized detected audio ring signal;

one of a memory device and a storage device connected to the converter;  
and

a digital signal processor connected to the one of a memory device and a storage device and configured to:

compare the digitized detected audio ring signal with a one or more ~~digitized~~ predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals ~~generated by a device,~~  
wherein each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is

associated with a corresponding device and wherein the digitized predetermined audio signal is pre-stored in the one of a memory device and a storage device; and

generate a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored digitized predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a muting signal, the method comprising;

detecting an audio audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium;

converting the detected audible ring signal into a digitized detected audio ring signal;

pre-storing a predetermined one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals generated by a device in a memory in one of a memory device and a storage device, wherein each of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device;

comparing the digitized detected audio ring signal with the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals; and

generating a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals.

11. (Currently Amended) An audio device, comprising:

an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an audio audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium; and

a processor in communication with the detector, wherein the processor is configured to:

convert the received audible ring signal into a digitized received audio ring signal;

compare the digitized received audio ring signal with a one or more predetermined digitized audio signal ring signals ~~generated by another device, wherein~~ each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device other than the audio device and wherein the predetermined audio signal is pre-stored in one of a memory device and a storage device associated with the processor; and

mute the audio device based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized received audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signal signals.

12. (Original) The audio device of claim 11, wherein the audio device is selected from the group consisting of a radio, a television, a stereo system, a CD player and a DVD player.

13. (Original) The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a muting on/off switch.

14. (Original) The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a training mode on/off switch.